Case 2655

Sialis Latreille, 1802 (Insecta, Megaloptera): proposed conservation by the confirmation of *Phryganea phalaenoides* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Semblis* Fabricius, 1775 (Insecta, Trichoptera)

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the well-established megalopteran generic name *Sialis* Latreille, 1802, by the suppression of an early but overlooked type species designation for *Semblis* Fabricius, 1775, currently placed in Trichoptera but which would otherwise be a senior objective synonym of *Sialis*.

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1. The nominal genus *Semblis* was proposed by Fabricius, 1775 (p. 305) for four Linnaean species now placed in three insect orders (see Table 1). No type species was fixed.

Table 1. Species originally placed in *Semblis* and their current dispositions

Original name	Current name	Order	Reference
Phryganea phalaenoides Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 547)	*Semblis phalaenoides*	Trichoptera	Fischer (1964, p. 78)
Phryganea bicaudata Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 548)	*Diura bicaudata*	Plecoptera	Illies (1966, p. 381)
Phryganea nebulosa Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 549)	*Taeniopteryx nebulosa*	Plecoptera	Illies (1966, p. 73)
Hemerobius lutarius Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 550)	*Sialis lutaria*	Megaloptera	Vshivkova (1985, p. 87)

2. Until recently the oldest known type species designation for *Semblis* was that of Van der Weele (1910, p. 55), who designated the first species listed by Fabricius in *Semblis*, i.e. *Phryganea phalaenoides* Linnaeus, 1758 (as '*Neuronia phalaenoides* L.'). This designation places *Semblis* in the order Trichoptera, and was independently repeated by Milne (1934, p. 8). Fischer (1964, p. 73) treated *Semblis* as a valid trichopteran genus with three species. Neave (1940, p. 169), without indicating a type species, incorrectly attributed *Semblis* to the order Plecoptera.

3. Recently it was discovered that Blanchard ([1848], p. 539) had much earlier designated *Hemerobius lutarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of *Semblis* ('SEMBLIS . . . Le type du genre est commun dans notre pays; c'est le SEMBLIS DE LA BOUE, *Semblis lutarius* (*Hemerobius lutarius* Lin.)'). Blanchard's designation clearly has priority over that of Van der Weele and, if allowed to remain valid, will render *Semblis* a senior objective synonym of the megalopteran genus *Sialis* Latreille, 1802 (p. 290; type species *Hemerobius lutarius* Linnaeus, 1758, by monotypy). This circumstance is very undesirable for the reasons given below.

4. *Sialis* is one of the oldest generic names in the order Megaloptera, and is probably the most universally known. The genus *Sialis* currently contains approximately 45 species which are widely distributed throughout North America, Europe, Asia and northern Africa. For more than 150 years *Sialis* has been considered a valid generic name in all taxonomic and morphological literature pertaining to the Megaloptera. In addition, because the aquatic larvae of species of this genus are common components of many freshwater biotas, the name *Sialis* has become deeply entrenched in the diverse and voluminous literature on aquatic entomology. Further contributing to the ubiquity of the name *Sialis* has been its use as the root of most later generic names (i.e., *Austrosialis, Haplosialis, Indosialis, Leptosialis, Nipponosialis, Protosialis* and *Stenosialis*) proposed in the family SIALIDAE, of which *Sialis* is the type genus. Allowing Blanchard's long-overlooked type species designation to force the replacement of the old and universally accepted Megalopteran name *Sialis* will not promote nomenclatural stability. On the contrary, its replacement would meet strong resistance and initiate a protracted and needless period of nomenclatural confusion concerning its use. For all these reasons, conservation of the name *Sialis* is here recommended in the strongest possible terms.

5. Acceptance of Blanchard's designation of *Hemerobius lutarius* Linnaeus as the type species of *Semblis* would also require this name to be replaced in the Trichoptera.

6. I propose that the Commission use its plenary powers to adopt *Phryganea phalaenoides* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Semblis*. This would allow the continuity of both *Semblis* and *Sialis* as valid names.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Semblis* Fabricius, 1775 prior to that of *Phryganea phalaenoides* Linnaeus, 1758 by Van der Weele (1910);

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *Semblis* Fabricius, 1775 (gender: feminine), type species by designation by Van der Weele (1910), *Phryganea phalaenoides* Linnaeus, 1758;
   (b) *Sialis* Latreille, 1802 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Hemerobius lutarius* Linnaeus, 1758;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *phalaenoides* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phryganea phalaenoides* (specific name of the type species of *Semblis* Fabricius, 1775);
   (b) *lutarius* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Hemerobius lutarius* (specific name of the type species of *Sialis* Latreille, 1802).

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